

### Gawai Dayak

The word Gawai means "a ritual or religious festival" usually associated with agricultural activities. *Dayak* is a collective name for the native ethnic groups of Sarawak: the Iban, Bidayuh, Orang Ulu and many more. Thus Gawai Dayak literally means Dayak Festival.

In the olden days, Gawai Dayak was celebrated to offer thanks to the gods for a bountiful harvest and to ask for their blessings for the coming season. The festival marks the end of the padi harvesting season and the beginning of another. At the same time, it was an occasion to renew friendships and make amends, of family reunions and filial duties. It was celebrated



with a feast of food and merrymaking. Visitors from neighbouring *kampung* (village) and far away villages would always join in the celebration.

The contemporary Gawai Dayak is a state-wide celebration in Sarawak held on June 1 every year, a certainly joyous occasion especially among the Dayaks. Today, the festival is more an occasion to renew communal and cultural ties, an opportunity for the Dayak communities to share their festive moods with friends and colleagues from other communities.

The mode of celebration varies from place to place. It is not only celebrated in the longhouses but in the town as well. This is a time when relatives all over the state and country as a whole get together. Open houses are held wherein friends and guests alike will be served with the traditional *tuak* (rice wine), mounds of titbits, cakes and other goodies.



## Travel Notes

Kuching is easily accessible from Kuala Lumpur, the capital of Malaysia, and from Singapore, both of which are linked by air to most international cities.



Join us for Gawai Tourism Night on  
23rd May 1998, 22nd May 1999,  
20th May 2000 and 26th May 2001.

For more details on flight schedules, please contact;

**SARAWAK TOURISM BOARD**  
Level 3, Wisma Sataak, Jalan Sataak/Kulas, 93400 Kuching, Sarawak.  
Tel: 082-423600/420286 Fax: 082-416700  
WWW-http://WWW.Sarawak.gov.my/stb

**SARAWAK TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE**  
Main Bazaar, Kuching, Sarawak. P. O. Box 887 93718 Kuching.  
Tel: 082-240620/232851 Fax: 082-427151

**VISITORS' INFORMATION CENTRE**  
Lot 31, Jalan Masjid, 93400 Kuching, Sarawak.  
Tel: 082-410944/410942 Fax: 082-256301

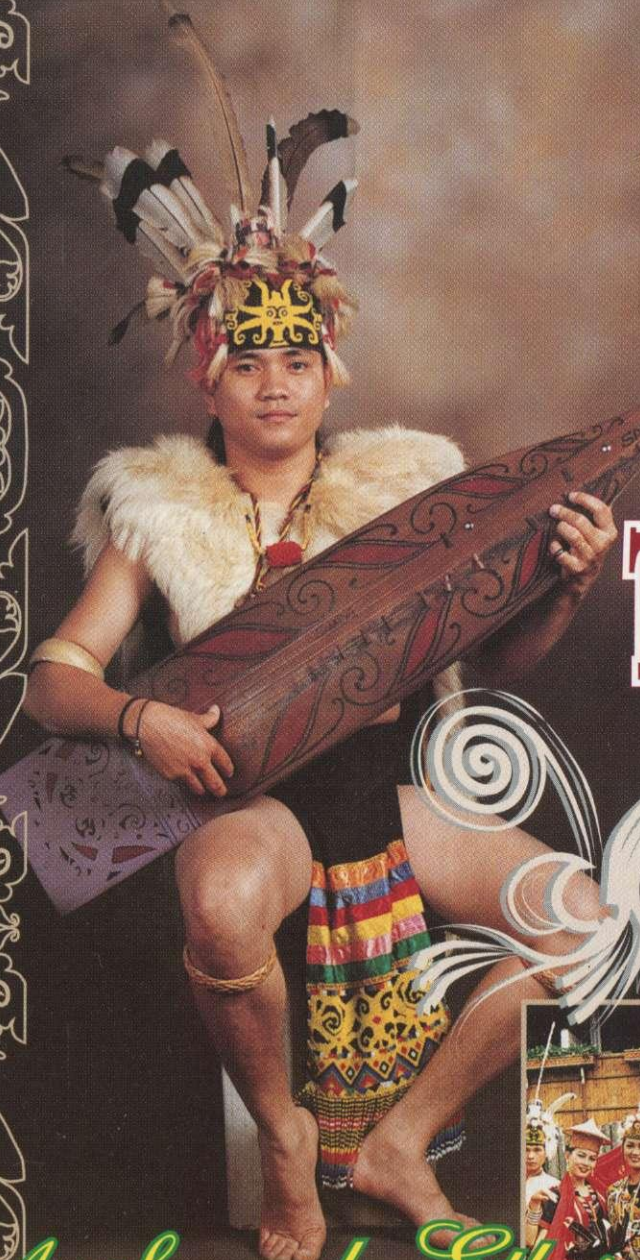
32, Ground Floor, Cross Road, 96000 Sibul, Sarawak.  
Tel: 084-340980 Fax: 084-341280

Lot 452, Jalan Melayu, 98000 Miri, Sarawak.  
Tel: 085-434187 Fax: 085-434179

**SARAWAK CULTURAL VILLAGE**  
Pantai Damai, Santubong, P. O. Box 2632 93752 Kuching, Sarawak.  
Tel: 082-846411 Fax: 082-846988  
www.visitsarawak.com/scv

# GAWAI Gawai Tourism Night

## A Sarawak Ethnic Festival





# A Sarawak Ethnic Festival

## Gawai Tourism Night

The Gawai Tourism Night is a celebration for all, an opportunity to experience and understand the culture, tradition and aspirations of the Dayak communities in Sarawak.

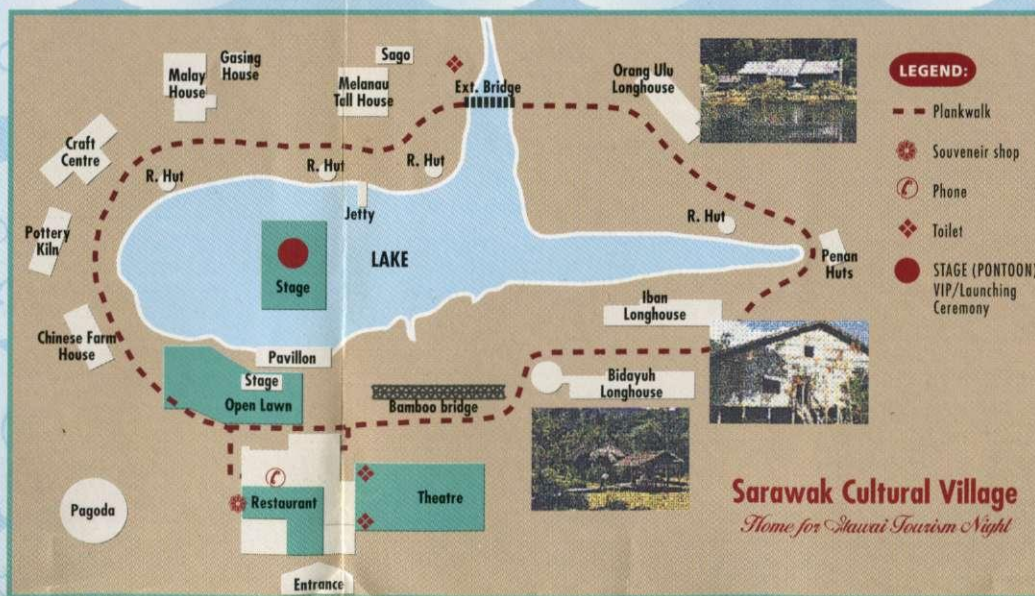
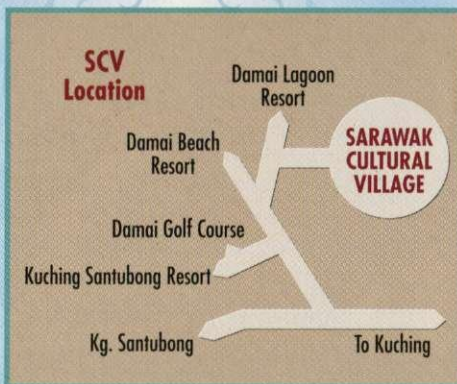
It is the night when all the ethnic communities in Sarawak, guests and tourists alike celebrate an evening of festivities, cultural performances and gastronomic delights...

A special highlight for the evening is a themed live performance in which the Sarawak Cultural Village dancers and performers re-enact events based on the legendary /historical heroes of the Sarawak ethnic communities. This very exciting live musical drama is a major draw for local & foreign tourists alike.



### \* How to get there ?

Sarawak Cultural Village is 35 km or 30 minutes drive from Kuching. Public transport by means of taxi or bus also available. Check with your tour agent or any Visitor's Information Centre for more details.



**Sarawak Cultural Village**  
*Home for Sarawak Tourism Night*

